(e) Does not arise.

(f) MTNL has introduced following steps to improve the cellular service.

(i) Network optimization is being carried out to improve the coverage.

(ii) Adjoining towns *viz.* Faridabad, Gurgaon, Ghaziabad, Noida (in Delhi) and Kalyan, Navi Mumbai (in Mumbai) are also being covered.

(iii) Adequate numbers of franchisees are being engaged to market the service.

(iv) Roaming facilities are being extended to all the places within the country as well as abroad.

(v) Prepaid service is proposed to be started soon.

Norms for opening of Post Offices

†991. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the existing norms for opening of post offices in rural, urban, tribal and backward areas;

(b) whether the suggestions in the report of the Justice Talwar Committee regarding the amendment of the existing norms have since been implemented?

(c) if so, when; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) The information asked for is given in the Statement (*See* below).

(b) The terms of reference of the Justice Talwar Committee did not cover norms for opening at Post Offices.

(c) and (d) Do not arise in view of (b) above.

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†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

Statement

Norms for Opening Post Offices

1. Norms for opening Extra Departmental Branch Post Office:

Population: *In Normal Areas:*

3000 population in a group of villages [including the Proposed Post Office (PPO) village]

In Hilly, Tribal, Desert and Inaccessible Areas:

500 population in an individual village or 1000 population in a group of villages.

Distance: *In Normal Areas:*

The minimum distance from the nearest existing post office will be 3 Kms.

In Hilly, Tribal, Desert and Inaccessible Areas:

The distance limit will be the same as above except that in Hilly Areas, the minimum distance limit can be relaxed by the Directorate in cases where such relaxation is warranted by special circumstances which should be clearly explained while submitting a proposal.

Anticipated Income: *In Normal Areas:*

The Minimum anticipated revenue will be $33^{1}/_{3}$% of the cost,

In Hilly, Tribal, Desert and Inaccessible Areas:

The minimum anticipated income will be 15% of the cost.

2. Criteria for upgrading/opening Departmental Sub-Post Offices:

(a) *In Rural Areas:* The minimum work-load of the Extra Departmental Branch Post Office, proposed to be upgraded, should be five hours per day. The permissible limit of annual loss is Rs. 2400/- in Normal Rural areas and Rs. 4800/- in Tribal and Hilly areas.

(b) *In Urban Areas:* In Urban areas, the post office should initially be self-supporting, and, at the time of the first annual review, it should show a 5% profit to be eligible for further retention.

The minimum distance between two post offices should be 1.5 Kms

in cities with a population of 20 lakhs and above, and 2 Kms. in other Urban Areas. No two delivery offices, however, should be closer than 5 Kms. for each other.

Heads of Circles have powers to relax the distance condition in 10% of the cases.

A Delivery Post Office in Urban Area should have a minimum of 7 Postmen's beats.

Non-connection of Moradabad with local dialing system

992. MISS FRIDA TOPNO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether as a matter of policy, Government have provided local dialing system/facility to the cities falling within a radius of 200 Kilometers;

(b) if so, whether all the cities within the 200 kms. radius of Delhi have been provided with this facility;

(c) if so, the details of such cities in U.P. which have been so connected;

(d) the reasons for not connecting Moradabad by local dialing system; and

(e) by when Moradabad would be so connected and if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) As per policy local dialing without "O" (On code "95") is provided upto 200 Kms for intra circle and calls from Delhi SDCA to SDCAs located in NCR only.

(b) No, Sir. Cities located in SDCAs on NCR and falling within 200 Km from Delhi only have been provided local dialing facility.

(c) The information is given in the statement (*See* below).

(d) and (e) Since, Delhi and Moradabad from part of different Telecom Circles and Moradabad not being part of NCR; local dialing without "0" has not been provided between Delhi and Moradabad.